

April 26, 2008

Dear Members of the FCC:

We agree that broadcasters should meet the needs of the local communities which they serve. However, several of the policies being proposed would significantly infringe upon the freedoms of both small stations and stations whose message is directed at specific population groups within communities. It would be an unfortunate mistake for the FCC to force localism obligations on radio stations rather than continue to rely on market forces and the existing issue-responsive programming rules.

Broadcasting stations should be allowed to meet specific interests within a community but not be forced by policy to address broader community issues. Stations should be allowed to voluntarily meet needs within the community as they fit into the interests of the listener base; public radio stations are more aptly established to meet general cross-sectional interests of communities.

Policies or regulations which seek to influence radio programming go against the market economy. Forced programming could damage the integrity of radio stations by requiring messages contrary to either the mission of the station or the interests of the listener base.

- Broadcasters should not be forced to take programming advice from community advisory boards.
- They should not be forced to report the types of programming, who produced it, and how it reflects cross-sectional broadcasting
- They should never be forced to grant airtime to groups which do not align with the values or mission of the station
- And measures should be taken to decrease costs to make diverse programming more available. Many communities cannot afford a wide variety of stations and should be allowed to use labor saving methods to bring in broadcasting.

We strongly believe that the above issues are most appropriately regulated by the listener base who tune into the programming. Thank you for your time and interest in listening to our concerns.

Sincerely,

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